



image - 1031  
1631

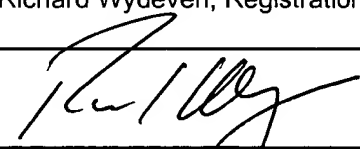
<b>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>	<i>Application No.</i>	09/973,862
	<i>Filing Date</i>	October 11, 2001
	<i>First Named Inventor</i>	Kelly G. AMMANN et al.
	<i>Group Art Unit</i>	1631
	<i>Examiner Name</i>	Unknown
	<i>Attorney Docket No.</i>	2599-104-D4
	<i>Customer No.</i>	6449
	<i>Confirmation No.</i>	8811
<i>Title of the Invention:</i> <b>AUTOMATED DIAGNOSTIC ANALYZER AND METHOD</b>		

### STATUS REQUEST

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant respectfully inquires as to when an Office Action for the above-captioned application can be expected. A request was filed on February 14, 2003, but we have not received a reply.

<b>RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,</b>					
<b>NAME AND REG. NUMBER</b>	Richard Wydeven, Registration No. 39,881				
<b>SIGNATURE</b>			<b>DATE</b>	October 17, 2003	
<b>Address</b>	Rothwell, Figg, Ernst & Manbeck 1425 K Street, N.W., Suite 800				
<b>City</b>	Washington	<b>State</b>	D.C.	<b>Zip Code</b>	20005
<b>Country</b>	U.S.A.	<b>Telephone</b>	202-783-6040	<b>Fax</b>	202-783-6031